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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/520,789	08/22/2005	Andrew Sean Bissett	411963.0036	2433
77027	7590	01/21/2010	EXAMINER	
Williams Mullen 222 Central Park Ave Suite 1700 Virginia Beach, VA 23462			ELOSHTWAY, NIKI MARINA	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		3781		
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		01/21/2010		PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/520,789	Applicant(s) BISSETT, ANDREW SEAN
	Examiner NIKI M. ELOSHWAY	Art Unit 3781

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on **21 July 2009**.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Introduction

1. Applicant's arguments submitted with the PreAppeal Conference Request, filed March 4, 2009, are persuasive and, therefore, the finality of the previous Office Action is withdrawn.
2. This action is NON-FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ellis et al. (U.S. 5,450,973).
Ellis et al. teach an assembly, shown in figure 3, adapted to dock a necked container 124 comprising a resilient collar 14 comprised of an array of inwardly bowed linking regions 132 and an array of elements 138. Each element 138 has a form to be moved outwardly radially against a bias as a container is being axially docked until each moves inwardly radially with the bias to capture a neck flange 146 by its underface 150. Each element 138 is integral with and supported by the inwardly bowed linking regions 132.

5. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hayashida et al. (U.S. 5,570,798). Hayashida et al. teach an assembly, shown in figures 1 and 5, adapted to dock a necked container 19 comprising a resilient collar 7 comprised of an array of inwardly bowed linking regions 10 (see figure 5) and an array of elements 9. Each element 9 has a form to be moved outwardly radially against a bias as a container is being axially docked until each moves inwardly radially with the bias to

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capture a neck flange 18 by its underface (as shown in figure 1). Each element 9 is integral with and supported by the inwardly bowed linking regions 10.

6. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Imbery et al. (U.S. 5,007,545). Imbery et al. teach an assembly, shown in figure 15, adapted to dock a necked container comprising a resilient collar 41** comprised of an array of inwardly bowed linking regions 92** and an array of elements 70**. Each element 70** has a form to be moved outwardly radially against a bias as a container is being axially docked until each moves inwardly radially with the bias to capture a neck flange by its underface. Each element 70** is integral with the inwardly bowed linking regions 92**.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NIKI M. ELOSHWAY whose telephone number is (571)272-4538. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Stashick can be reached on 571-272-4561. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Niki M. Eloshway/
Niki M. Eloshway
Examiner
Art Unit 3781

nme